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Chargers may leave San Diego for a better stadium

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The San Diego Chargers are threatening to leave San Diego if they are not given a state-of-the-art football stadium.

The San Diego community is split between fighting to keep the Chargers in their city or letting them leave. Some people see the value in paying for a new stadium, while others do not believe the Chargers are worthy of a brand-new stadium.

Chris Waite, a junior at USD, thinks that any move that the Chargers make from San Diego would be detrimental to the community.

"People here love supporting their team and are more than willing to save the team," Waite said. "It is understandable that the Chargers want to upgrade and grow with the rest of the National Football League; they deserve a new stadium and training centers. But if they were to leave San Diego, I feel as though all support would be lost and that whatever path they follow will not end with the success they could have here in San Diego."

Waite explained how the Chargers are a part of the San



Photo courtesy of SD Dirk/ Flickr

The current stadium for the San Diego Chargers is Qualcomm.

Diego community. "The community is as much a part of the team as the team is part of the community," Waite said. "Leaving San Diego would put a massive gap in the love I have for the team, the team I grew up with."

Julie Lai is a freshman at the University of San Diego who also believes that the Chargers need to stay in San Diego and represent Southern California.

"Losing the Chargers would be a loss to San Diego's culture," Lai said. "The Chargers' identity is within the city of San Diego, and that should not change. It is important for the Chargers to stay in San Diego because this is where they developed their fan base."

Even though there is a cost involved with building a new stadium, some San Diegans think the project is worth paying extra taxes for. The National Football League (NFL) has given their approval for other teams to revamp their stadiums, and the Chargers' stadium has not been updated since 1997.

In response, the Chargers have proposed to move their team elsewhere, possibly to Los Angeles, if they are not given the approval and money to build a new stadium in San Diego. The estimated budget needed to build a new football stadium is \$1 billion.

The Chargers are not the only football team in contention

to move to Los Angeles. The Oakland Raiders are also hoping to move their football team to a more upgraded football stadium. According to ESPN, talk of the Chargers and the Raiders sharing a stadium in Los Angeles is a possibility.

Marie McDonald-Hulen is a USD sophomore who said that the Chargers are better off staying in San Diego instead of moving to LA.

"I think one of the really fun things about living in San Diego is that we have professional sports teams," McDonald-Hulen said. "Not every city can say that. I

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Changes in housing policy cause mixed reactions

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GIANNA CARAVETTA
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The University of San Diego has made some changes to undergraduate residential living.

Starting with the class of 2018, second-year students are required to live on campus. In a document explaining USD's reasoning behind the new policy, Residential Life said it is more beneficial for students to live on campus than to move off campus for sophomore year.

"[Living on campus] helps to build a 'holistic and transformative educational experience' to maintain USD's liberal arts values and intellectual culture," the document said. "Students who live on campus are more likely to persist and graduate than students who live off campus. Residence halls facilitate students' social, and perhaps academic, involvement with other students, their professors and the university community."

In the same document, USD reported that a large amount of students remain on campus following their freshman year.

"It is important to note that, currently, most second year students at USD choose to live on campus," the document said. "Typically, close to 70% of the freshmen who live on campus elect to remain on campus for their sophomore year."

Current sophomores and juniors will have a change of options in the 2015/2016 school year. Because the upcoming sophomore class is one of USD's largest classes, and the Vistas can no longer house all the sophomores, the San Buenaventura Apartments and Manchester Village Apartments have floors reserved for sophomore living.

The San Buenaventura Apartments, with the exception of squatter's rights available on the fourth floor, will have three floors dedicated to next year's sophomores. Manchester Village Apartments will have a floor of doubles reserved for sophomores.

Because of these changes, some students are in support of sophomores living in the upperclassman housing.

Resident assistant Sloane Smith is a senior at USD who finds this new housing process to be fair. Smith explained that Residential Life is organizing the sign-ups for all students to get what they want.

"I know juniors and seniors are not happy being forced to move out after a certain number of years

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USD reacts to the new Tu Mercado entrance and the promise of more changes

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The reconstruction of Tu Mercado has been just one of many changes recently on campus at the University of San Diego. Upon students' return to school after winter break, they came across a new entrance to Tu Mercado; however, there have been more changes within the actual store besides the new location of the door.

Tu Mercado this semester changed how they check out people's purchases of food items and updated their system to a Point of Sale, POS. This system is a faster way to swipe cards and to be more compliant with credit card systems.

Ruth Neveu is the manager of Tu Mercado and Torero Tu Go food truck and has found the new changes to be very beneficial to the store.

"So far, the way the people can come in and order sandwiches



Kevin Nelson/The Vista

Students use the new location of the cash register in Tu Mercado.

and we can ring them up at the front has alleviated a lot of stand still over there, whereas before we were all kind of smashed together," Neveu said.

This new layout and system was made with the goal to make Tu Mercado more effective, yet students are having mixed feelings in regard to the changes at the store.

For senior Katie Modesitt, she likes the changes but is still having a hard time adjusting to the new method of payment.

"I think it is efficient," Modesitt said. "I think it is a little odd that you have to go to the front register to pay and that only happens sometimes, so you don't really know when to pay,

but otherwise I think it is fine."

Junior Nick Manassis also likes the new system and has found it to be a positive change compared to the old checkout system.

"It was a little weird at first, but I think it is a good thing because there is actually a place where you can just check out

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Stalking stress



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Chills, chills and empathetic terror. I am talking about listening to Sandra Bullock's 911 call that she made last year when she saw her stalker climb the stairs to her attic. She called 911 from a safe room in her closet. Her call reminds us that being stalked can happen to anyone.

Okay, so maybe being a celebrity has its downsides. There have been many reports of stalking, famous incidents like the Queen of England. I wonder why Sandra did not have video cameras that were being monitored or some rent-a-cop surveying the property. But, then again, the Queen of England woke up one night in 1982 to find a guy sitting in her room.

So if a guy can scale Buckingham Palace and get past all the redcoats standing outside, then surely a stalker can walk into Sandra Bullock's attic. However, if I was high profile, I would have a little extra security, or at least security officers that do not fall asleep at their post.

Stalking, for us, is usually with someone we know. For example, the public safety report this week seems to have an overabundance of unwanted communication. I have heard so many stories of friends who have had guy friends or boyfriends that continually text, call, Facebook message, and show up unannounced after being told to stay away.

Just last week, my roommate told me that if a friend of hers showed up at our on-campus apartment, I should tell him that she was still on spring break. Another friend in high school had a guy message her over ten times a day and send her hand written letters about how he valued their friendship, even after she told him that she needed a break.

So what is it that makes this story familiar? I think it is that so many people have either experienced it themselves or know someone that has experienced it. It must be so uncomfortable. The Campus Assault Resources and Education website says that if you are being stalked, keep a log and make sure that your stalker is not finding you through the GPS on your phone.

I can imagine little else that would make my hair stand on end than the feeling of being followed or watched. So please, I beg of you, if you feel that either a former friend or partner is stalking you, tell someone, do something. Please do not end up like Sandra Bullock calling from the depths of her closet or end up like the queen waking up with a guy in your room. Try to recognize signs early and trust your instincts if someone gives you the creeps; it probably means that they are creepy.

USD reacts to the San Diego Chargers' potential departure

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would be sad to see the Chargers leave, and I don't think their new location in LA would be great. I hope the city or some private sponsors can get some more support for them to stay."

There are many other tenants that use the stadium including National University's Holiday Bowl, the San Diego State University Aztec team, and the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl.

According to statistica.com, the Chargers have averaged a little over 65,000 people per game during the 2014 season. Qualcomm has a maximum capacity of a little over 71,000 people

There has been some speculation from the community that the move is inevitable. The Latin Times is one of those sources of concern, especially because Chargers fans largely inhabit the greater Los Angeles area.

"Whether it's the Rams, Raiders, Chargers or another team, owners around the league as well as the NFL itself now know that an NFL team moving to L.A. is inevitable," Latin Times said. "This is something the San Diego Chargers cannot have if they plan to stay in San Diego. 30 percent of

the Chargers fan base and ticket holders live in the Orange County and Los Angeles area. If that 30 percent suddenly converted to the new NFL team in L.A., it would be disastrous for San Diego."

Others are not in favor of building a larger new football stadium for the Chargers.

Crash Ketcham, a sophomore at USD, does not believe it is necessary for the Chargers to play at a grander and updated football stadium.

"The Chargers need to stay in San Diego and continue playing at Qualcomm stadium," Ketcham said. "Qualcomm is doing just fine as a football facility. I think the Chargers should invest more money in creating a better team before investing in a new stadium."

Ketcham, along with others, thinks that a move will be a mistake. Tayler Nunez, a junior at USD, believes that this move will take away San Diego's football spirit. She is from LA, so she understands the need for a team, but she does not think moving the Chargers is the best solution.

"I grew up in LA and had no team to root for, so, when I got to San Diego, I was excited because there is a football team," Nunez said. "I think the town will lose that excitement and sport spirit if they leave."

For now, the Chargers are in



Photo courtesy of Manica Architecture via LA Times

The proposed stadium for the Chargers and Raiders in LA.

San Diego for the remainder of the 2015 year. The Chargers are on a year-to-year lease, and, had they left earlier this year, they would have had to pay the City of San Diego \$17.6 million to leave in 2015.

USD sophomore Meagan Sherrington believes that the Chargers need to have a really good reason to constitute a move past the stadiums capacity.

"Yes, by moving to LA, they would get a larger stadium, but their fan base is in San Diego," Sherrington said. "I still think if the only reason to leave Qualcomm Stadium is because it is too small,

while another stadium could fit 5,000 more people, then it's insane and a waste of money that could be going to a better cause."

The Chargers football team wants to play their games in a larger and more current stadium. The San Diego community is divided on whether they should fight to keep the Chargers in their city by paying for a more contemporary stadium or not. Along with the city of San Diego, football fans across America are currently awaiting the final decision from the taxpayers and the NFL about where the Chargers will be located to play football in the upcoming season.

New requirement for sophomore housing causes problems

HOUSING continued from Front Page

for the [incoming] sophomores, but Residential Life is doing a good job with accommodating everyone that is fair," Smith said.

Smith said that she thinks there are not many differences with the current housing sign-ups than previous sign-ups.

"Juniors and seniors get priority housing before the sophomores, whereas the sophomores know they are supposed to go to the Vistas or choose the rest of the rooms that remain open," Smith said.

USD junior Kaylee Gil is another student that has no problem with the new housing options.

"I don't mind sophomores living in 'upperclassmen' houses, but I do think that it is more beneficial for sophomores to live together to build community and meet more sophomores," Gil said.

Unlike Smith and Gil, some students do not agree with the new housing process changes.

Sophomore student Crash Ketcham says Residential Life should not have forced sophomores to live on campus.

"Forcing students to live on campus takes away the college experience and causes unnecessary problems with other upperclassmen and finances," Ketcham said.

Ketcham elaborated explaining that taking away this freedom will lead to problems.

"Students are already living on campus, without being forced. If the school forces students to live on campus then students no longer want to live on campus," Ketcham said.

Ketcham is not alone in his opinion of the new housing process.

Another student that does not approve of the new changes is USD freshman Christine Fitzpatrick. Fitzpatrick says it is more beneficial to keep all grades living together.

"Some sophomores cannot fit in the Vistas and have to go to Manchester, the San Buenaventura apartments, or the UTAs. If the

school is requiring all sophomores to live on campus, then [they should] put all the sophomores together," Fitzpatrick said.

Others argue that the new housing policy is acceptable.

Missions Crossroads Office Supervisor Barbara Baumann explains the new housing policy is impartial.

"Juniors and seniors were able to live in any housing building of their choice in previous years, so it is fair that sophomores get the same options," Baumann said. "The new housing process was intentional to support second year students in keeping a class community."

Community Director Brandon McCreary agrees that the process is appropriate and beneficial.

"We live on a beautiful campus that you only get a few years of opportunity to live on before you live 'off campus' for the rest of your life. I am not sure why the process would feel 'unfair' when priority in signups goes

to the upper class students, just like it does for things like course scheduling," McCreary said.

USD will continue to require upcoming and future sophomores to live on campus. A new change is that juniors and seniors will automatically be able to pick rooms before the sophomore lotteries are released.

The document also described Residential Life's plan for the future with this new requirement.

"The second year residency requirement at USD will enhance the sense of community among our students, faculty, and staff; foster the objectives of a more integrated living learning environment on campus; and encourage greater identification and affinity among undergraduate students with their alma mater, thereby increasing the likelihood of sustainable ties with the university after graduation," the document said.

Residential Life will pay close attention to the next year's housing outcome for future references.

New Tu Mercado developments foreshadow more future changes

TU MERC continued from Front Page

whereas before you had to awkwardly stand in two different lines for purchases versus sandwich purchases, so I think it is good as long as there is someone there," Manassis said.

However, some students are not quite as receptive to the recent changes.

Senior Joe Joe Sarkisian finds the new layout to be less effective.

"Honestly, it kind of seems pointless," Joe Sarkisian said. "It seems like the checkout got slower because people have to wait to get their sandwiches, and then they have to checkout again and wait in another line, so I kind of don't like it."

Sophomore Joseph Pham also prefers the old system due to the ability to check out at multiple registers.

"I think when they had the old system, when all of the registers were open, was better,"

Pham said. "Now, when you order something, you have to go all the way to the other side and wait in the line, and that is everyone trying to buy things, not only sandwiches."

However, these mixed reviews do not concern Neveu.

"Of course some people don't like it because change is hard," Neveu said.

Neveu was quick to state that overall the change has been received well and to expect more change in the future in regard to sandwich items and products available

for purchase within the store.

"A lot of people have liked it a lot better, and things are still moving, things are going to change again but only for the better," Neveu said.

Regardless of student opinions on the changes happening at Tu Mercado and around campus, the university continues to push forward with these improvements. Only time will tell how these changes to Tu Mercado will coincide with the opening of the bookstore.

Public Safety Report: Suspicious Characters Edition

March 15 **Location: Copley Library**

At approximately 8:30 p.m., the Department of Public Safety responded to a report of a suspicious person at Copley Library. Upon investigation, the suspicious person was a non-USD member who was making people feel uncomfortable by his actions. Public Safety determined that the non-USD member did not have a legitimate reason to be in the library and was requested to leave campus.

March 17 **Location: On Campus**

At approximately 11:00 a.m., the Department of Public Safety received a report of a USD student who received unwanted communication from an unknown suspicious individual.

March 17 **Location: University Terrace Apartments**

At approximately 9:43 p.m., the Department of Public Safety received a report of an assault that occurred on Saturday, March 14, 2015. The complainant does not wish to proceed with a criminal investigation at this time.

March 19

Location: Maher Hall

At approximately 11:12 a.m., the Department of Public Safety received a report of a USD Faculty Staff who received obscene telephone communication from a suspicious unknown individual. This case is currently under investigation.

March 20

Location: Warren Hall School of Law

At approximately 4:21 p.m., the Department of Public Safety received a report of a USD Faculty Staff who received unwanted communication from a former acquaintance. The individual who was responsible for the unwanted communication was contacted and advised to cease further communication with the USD Faculty Staff member.

March 21

Location: On Campus

At approximately 4:21 p.m., the Department of Public Safety received a report of a USD student who received unwanted communication via email and social media from another USD student. This case is currently under investigation.

March 22

At approximately 1:12 a.m., the Department of Public Safety responded to a report of suspicious circumstances at the Electronic Recycling Center. Upon investigation, two individuals, one was identified as a USD student and the other was a non-USD student, were contacted and evaluated. It was determined that the USD student could not care for themselves and was voluntarily transported to Detox, the non-USD student was able to care for themselves and was released.



March 26

Location: Immaculata Parish Church

At approximately 5:37 p.m., the Department of Public Safety responded to a report of a suspicious person at the Immaculata Church. Upon investigation, the suspicious person was making a USD student feel uncomfortable by his actions. If you observe any suspicious activity, you are encouraged to contact Public Safety immediately at 619-260-2222.

March 29

Location: Marian Way at Copley Library

At approximately 8:00 p.m., the Department of Public Safety stopped a person who was riding a bicycle that was not equipped with a front headlight nor a rear red reflector. Upon investigation, Public Safety was made aware of an active warrant involving the subject who had been identified as a non-USD community member. San Diego Police Department was contacted and took custody of the individual.



April 1

Location: Hahn University Center

At approximately 2:27 p.m., the Department of Public Safety received a report of a USD employee who received suspicious communication via email from a non-USD member. This case is currently under investigation.

April 8

Location: Maher Hall

At approximately 6:24 p.m., the Department of Public Safety responded to a report of derogatory words and drawings written underneath a bunk bed in Maher Hall with a pen. Facilities Management was contacted and removed the derogatory words and drawings.

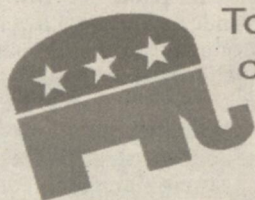
April 9

Location: Camino Hall

At approximately 11:16 a.m., the Department of Public Safety conducted a room search that was authorized by a USD Community Director. Upon investigation, unauthorized weapons were found along with a set of plastic toy nunchucks. Public Safety confiscated the weapons and toy nunchucks.

Nora Brewington/The Vista

Current Event Update: Presidential Race



To keep you updated on the 2016 presidential race, here is a list of some of the politicians that have either officially announced their candidacy, considered the option, or are not running for president.



Yes:

Hillary Clinton (D)
Ted Cruz (R)
Rand Paul (R)
Marco Rubio (R)

Maybe:

Joe Biden (D)
Jeb Bush (R)
Chris Christie (R)
Bobby Jindal (R)
John Kasich (R)
Martin O'Malley (D)
Rick Perry (R)
Bernard Sanders (I)
Jim Webb (D)

No:

Mitt Romney (R)
Elizabeth Warren (D)

Key: D = Democrat, R = Republican, I = Independent

Gianna Caravetta and Sarah Brewington

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The Best Majors



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One of the most common worries before graduation is if we will be able to find jobs in the field that we want. With the current rates of unemployment and the economy the way it is, this is a reasonable concern. It is troubling to think that after we graduate from college, we may not have many opportunities for employment.

However, we can relax a little knowing that recent data from a research report done by Georgetown University shows that unemployment rates for college graduates are dropping for some majors. The research revealed that the degrees that are helping people out with jobs right now are agriculture, mining, teaching, medicine, physics, and chemistry. The job market for these fields is booming right now.

Although this is good news, the report also carried a heavy punch for other majors.

Graduates with degrees in architecture or social science are twice as likely to be unemployed, and the unemployment rates for degrees in communication and journalism are actually on the rise.

However, things are not as bleak as they may seem to be. The research from Georgetown University showed that although unemployment rates may be increasing in some areas, people with college degrees are still more likely to get jobs than those who only have high school diplomas. College graduates are also likely to earn about 75 percent more than what a high school graduate earns yearly.

The data from the study also showed that architects and social scientists might benefit in the long run. Even though they may start at a disadvantage, it is believed by the research team at Georgetown University that graduates with those degrees are positioned for success, because experienced workers with those degrees eventually earn more money on average.

However, there is no best major. According to data released by the New York Federal Reserve, only about 27 percent of college graduates currently employed are working in jobs that are strictly related to their majors.

Landing a job that does not completely relate to our major does not mean the end of the world. As long as we study what we're passionate about, whether we are studying English or Biochemistry, we are sure to do our best and to continue pursuing our passions, no matter what job we get once we graduate from USD.

Drought causes new water regulations

RACHEL TRUONG
ASST. BUSINESS EDITOR

California is suffering from its most severe drought since 2011.

Numerous cities and farms across the state have suffered from the effects of the water shortage, which include food price inflation and lower crop yields.

These issues have caused many organizations across the state, including city governments and universities, to promote the importance of conserving water.

This includes the University of San Diego, which has already enacted numerous methods of water conservation, including low-flow showerheads and water conserving toilets.

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. has responded to the drought by announcing that he will enforce new regulations in order to reduce the amount of water being used by citizens across the state and to ensure that California will be better prepared for the next drought.

In an official press release from the state of California on April 1 of this year, Brown spoke about mandatory water reductions to be enforced in cities all across California, the first governor in state history to do so.

"Today we are standing on dry grass where there should be five feet of snow," Brown said. This historic drought demands unprecedented action. Therefore, I'm issuing an executive order mandating substantial water reductions across our state. As Californians, we must pull together and save water in every

way possible."

Governor Brown's regulations will include replacing 50 million square feet of lawns with drought tolerant plants, directing a statewide rebate program to replace old appliances with water and energy efficient ones, requiring places such as college campuses and golf courses to cut their water use, and preventing new buildings from irrigating with potable water.

"Today we are standing on dry grass where there should be five feet of snow. This historic drought demands unprecedented action."

- Governor Edmund G. Brown

These measures are set to reduce California's water usage by 25 percent. According to the California Energy Commission, the new appliances alone will

save more than 10 billion gallons of water a year, 10 times the amount of water used by the city of San Diego.

These regulations, when enacted, will greatly impact San Diego as a whole, including USD.

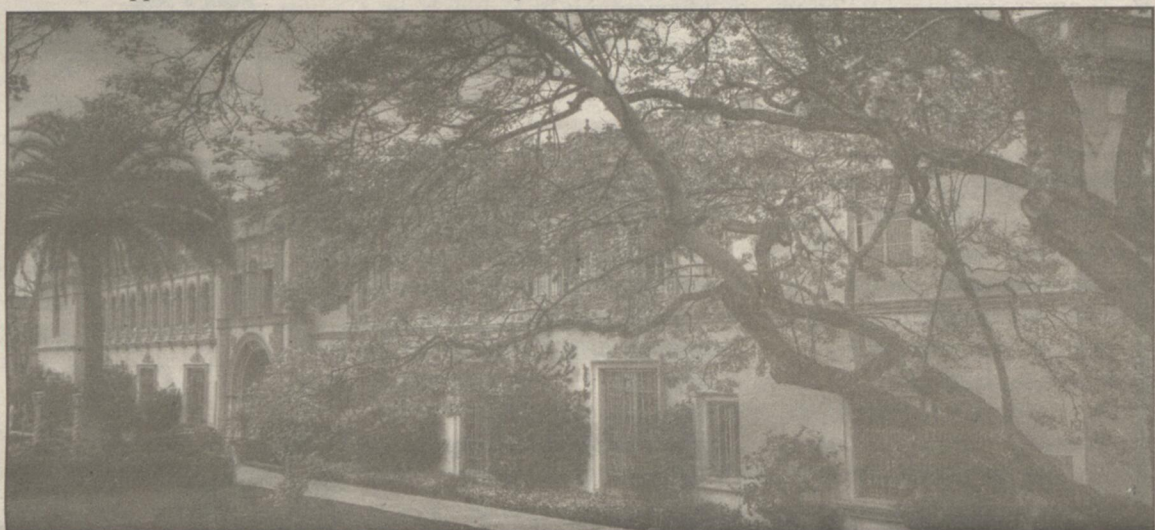
The university has already taken large steps to help conserve water, including, installing water efficient showerheads and sinks and encouraging the use of reusable water bottles rather than

this idea, such as the theme for this year's All Faith Service: Water: A Sacred Trust.

With the new regulations on water being enforced, some students have weighed in on the pros and cons of USD's famously beautiful campus potentially receiving less water. One of these students is sophomore Alex Garcia.

"Our campus is very beautiful, but it takes a lot of water to keep it that way," Garcia said. "If it means we're helping the rest of California by saving water, then what's a few blades of grass in exchange?"

Governor Brown's regulations will be enforced by local water providers. If local businesses and homeowners do not comply with the new restrictions on water, the executive order authorizes water suppliers to penalize offenders.



USD's campus will be one of many affected by the new water regulations to conserve water. Photo courtesy of Jill Clardy/flickr.com

Ask the Alumni: Waterproof Speakers

TAYLER REVIERE VERNINAS
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

The background music that enhances the memorable moments of life at the beach is an essential part of the ultimate San Diego experience.

University of San Diego alum, Stevie Patsis, has created an exotic and useful bluetooth speaker for times like these to occur. His company, Speaqua Sound Co., recently released its newest speaker, the Barnacle, which is 100 percent waterproof, has a suction cup that allows it to hold onto surfaces, and is able to float in the water. It is a circular speaker that is tilted at a 45 degree angle to enable the sound to be projected at a louder volume.

Patsis' idea for the company first began about a year ago when he was working for his dad's business that deals with custom manufacturing and a supply chain.

"I wanted to create something for traveling surfers, where the fully sound and waterproof speaker would provide music for them," Patsis said.

Patsis thoroughly enjoyed his working experience with his dad's company and felt inspired to build a brand that would be sustainable throughout his entire life.

"I was dealing with the business development side and really enjoyed that aspect of the company," Patsis said. "I worked with Stack Electronics—a wholesale electronic brokerage in China."

These factories were capable of creating products quickly and Patsis was able to use his

connections with these companies in order to present his idea.

"The main obstacle in the beginning was doing business with a foreign country that spoke a different language," Patsis said. "Communication is a huge barrier and their method of doing business in China is completely different from the way business is run here."

The first 10,000 speakers created had a static electricity problem that caused a shortage in the speaker. Although this created a setback in the beginning, Patsis was able to utilize these prototypes to promote his product. He shared them with his fellow surfing community in Hawaii where many of the professional surfers helped contribute to the recognition of brand awareness.

Patsis' connections with the surf community also allowed the Speaqua Sound Co. to sponsor

Skudin Surf Camp in New York and Fulcrum Surf Camp in Del Mar, Calif.; furthering Patsis goal of creating a sustainable brand.

The new set of speakers has been created just in time for summer, which Patsis believes to be a blessing in disguise. Despite the tough times of running his business, Patsis believes his experience at USD has immensely impacted his success in the corporate world.

Fortunately, Patsis was able to build a team of USD students who were willing to work for him and provide good insight from their experience within the classroom along with professional feedback from professors. His team consists of USD seniors—Blake Ferraro, Steven Melendez, Tyler Howard, Gill Soranejo, and Zack Hines.

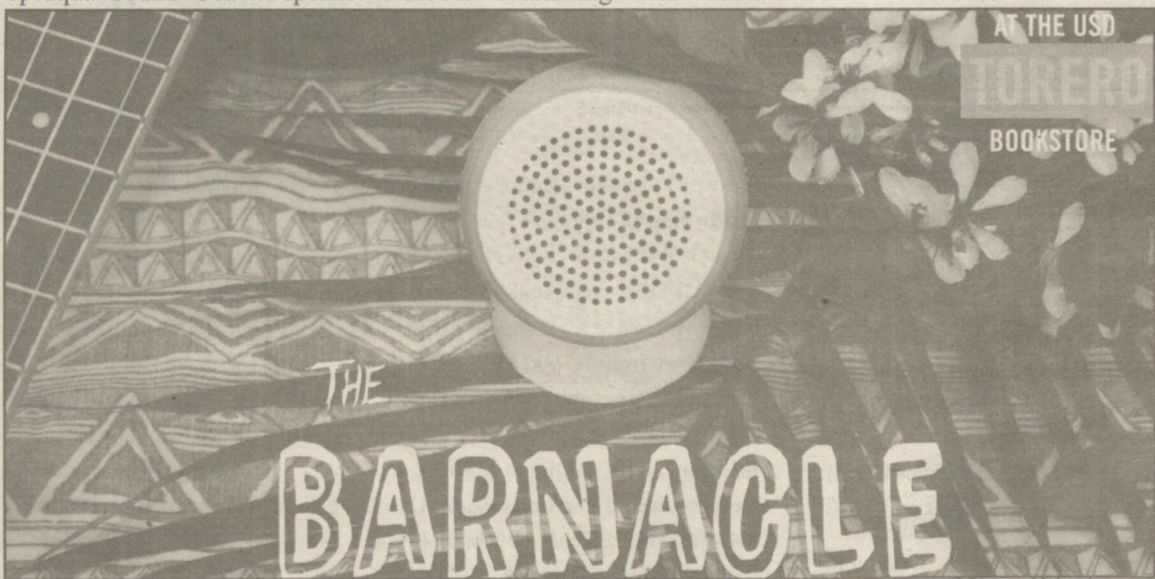
Steven Melendez, the Global Marketing and Sales

Executive for the company, enjoys this opportunity to be able to network with others, build new relationships, travel, and continue his passion for photography.

Melendez admits that it is not easy introducing a new company, yet he believes that there is no better place to do so than at USD.

"It brings out a little bit of the school spirit in the sense of the strong entrepreneurial values that we have been taught," Melendez said. "I think it is awesome how a community can come together in this way!"

These fun-colored, tennis ball sized speakers are currently being sold for \$40 at the USD ToreroStore and Active Ride Shop, as well as surf shop stores throughout the United States and South America. Those interested in the company can also find it via Instagram.



The Barnacle is a waterproof bluetooth speaker made to provide music in aquatic environments. Photo Courtesy of Steven Melendez

San Diego takes on the global market

BRIANNA HARRINGTON
BUSINESS EDITOR
@BNH1995

San Diego is a hub for innovative business, and thanks to a new initiative it will be pushed into a more competitive market.

San Diego's mayor, Kevin Faulconer, participated in a summit in La Jolla to put together a definitive plan to push San Diego into the global economy.

The plan is called the Go Global Initiative and will involve more than 30 area organizations including Qualcomm Incorporated and University of California San Diego. It is a five-year plan that is supposed to maximize San Diego's competitiveness through increased engagement in the global market.

According to the San Diego Business website, the initiative introduces five strategies that will be implemented, including: catalyzing growth of advanced industries, driving innovation through talent, realizing Baja California's potential through connections with priority and emerging markets, mainstreaming global activity as a key component of regional business retention and expansion efforts, and maximizing infrastructure assets.

The Global San Diego Summit was attended by Faulconer and sponsored by Brookings Institution and JP Morgan. Faulconer made a statement at the summit stating his support for the initiative. "With so much creative

talent in life sciences, cyber technology, clean technology, and blue technology, we have to begin to discuss ways to think beyond just California and how we can make a real impact on the world," Faulconer said.

Brookings Institution projected that 85 percent of global growth through 2019 will occur outside of the United States. Global engagement will prove crucial to San Diego's sustained competitiveness.

They also stated that San Diego is the 17th largest economy in the country, but it only ranks No. 61 in export intensity and 49th in percentage of jobs in foreign-owned firms.

According to Brookings Institution there are many benefits to moving into a global economy including: paying higher wages, increasing productivity of the domestic market, a decreased likelihood of going out of business, and spurring more efficient development of technology.

In addition, the Go Global Initiative is set to partner with MetroConnect in order to encourage businesses to take on the initiative.

The company will provide numerous resources, including funds and advice, to small and medium businesses who may find it harder to take on the global market than larger companies.

MetroConnect's main role in the Go Global Initiative is to therefore provide the means for companies to fully take advantage of the program. Therefore, it has designated that

eligible businesses apply for \$10,000 in funds, 20 of which will be chosen to receive them. These funds are meant to cover some of the costs that the company would face by choosing to go global.

The Go Global Initiative would not only benefit many companies in San Diego, but it would also benefit numerous students majoring in business, including those currently studying at the University of San Diego.

With its strong business school and high population of students majoring in business, USD students will be able to take advantage of the Go Global Initiative in order to further their own companies and help them reach the global market.

Business major Sarah Choi weighed in on the idea of the Go Global Initiative, praising the advantages it would give her.

"As a business major, it's always good to learn ways to help make my future business competitive in the global market as well as the local one," freshman Choi said. "I can see how already existing businesses will handle the strategies and learn by observing them."

The "Go Global" Initiative has already been put into effect. The 20 companies chosen to receive money for their choice to participate in the Initiative have until December 15, 2015 to spend the \$10,000 in funds provided by the program.

Companies that spend the money by October 31, 2015 are eligible to be entered into a contest that would offer yet another \$10,000.

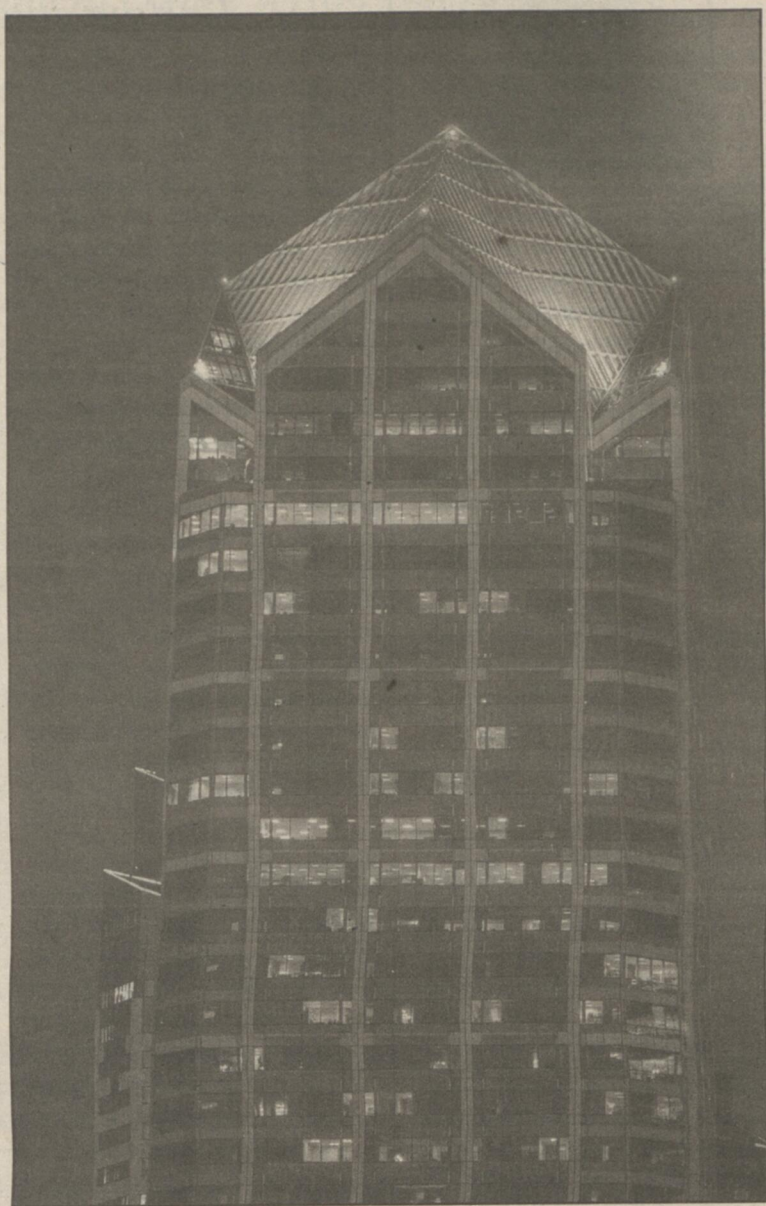


Photo courtesy of Justin Brown/flickr.com

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SD for SB 2K15



JULIANA CURTIS
OPINION EDITOR
@julianacurtis28

As I watched everyone else pack their bags, find their passports, and deplete their savings accounts while preparing for this year's spring break, I could not have been happier that I was not joining them. Although I love to travel and have utilized spring break as a time to do so in the past, I have completely changed my stance this year on USD spring break.

Spring breaking in San Diego is one of the best ideas I have had all semester. Not only was it completely free, but also it was surprisingly entertaining and packed with adventure. I'll admit, my original plan was to join the masses and trek down to Cabo for the week, but with my plans falling through and a strong desire not to return home to miserably hot Arizona for the week, my roommates and I landed on the decision to just stay put.

Initially we thought that our spring break would be a rather relaxing one, passing the time lying out by the pool or getting ahead on our schoolwork, but we were wrong. A surprising amount of people had the same idea to stay in San Diego for the week, possibly because many students are also preparing for the gigantic hit about to wreck our bank accounts, a.k.a. studying abroad. Others would just rather hide out here than go home for a hectic holiday weekend with family.

However, the most inspiring people stayed because they wanted to take advantage of San Diego when their days were not full of class, work, and various other obligations. There are so many amazing aspects of this city – whether those are the hikes, beaches, and trails that nature has given us or the restaurants, clubs, and attractions of the city – that us students do not usually get to experience due to our jam-packed schedules.

Because so many other students decided to stay, San Diego was not the quiet, deserted place I expected it to be, but rather a fun atmosphere shared with fellow students and spring breakers from other schools. However, I do wish that more of my classmates had joined the fun.

Not only did I save hundreds of dollars, effort, and drama, but it also allowed me to fall more in love with San Diego than I was before. By exploring new places and meeting new people, I was able to make new memories in unexpected places around San Diego that I can now recall, and hopefully recreate, in my remaining years at USD.

I encourage anyone that is tired of the typical spring break destinations, running low on funds, or even just wanting to avoid the boring trip back home, to reconsider moving anywhere at all for spring break. If more of our students stuck around, San Diego could turn into an extended, and most likely amplified, version of what our weekends look like here.

Imagine how amazing it would be to experience a nine-day weekend here at the school you already love, and having ample funds to continue enjoying your semester after break instead of clawing your way out of post-Cabo debt and depression.

THE VISTA

Putting an end to the stigma on counseling

Getting guidance should not be a taboo topic, but rather a norm

ELENA GOODENBERGER
CONTRIBUTOR

If you have ever visited the counseling center on campus, you may have experienced feelings of embarrassment or shame without even knowing why. If not, reflect on how you may have entered the room. Did you stride in confidently or did you try to sneak in unnoticed?

Counseling is a relatively simple, commendable process defined as "advice and support that is given to people to help them deal with problems and make important decisions" and yet thousands of Americans today report that they would never consider seeing a counselor or seeking professional help for their personal problems.

If counseling is such a useful tool that, according to the American Psychological Association, can positively impact an individual or family, then why do so many people shy away from actively pursuing psychological help?

The reasoning behind this seems to be that there is a

cultural stigma placed on the idea of seeking counseling, making it out to be something that should not be discussed or confidently put into the open.

Counseling can be an extremely beneficial practice for those who are struggling with work, school, relationships or other personal issues, but society tends to associate counseling with mental disabilities and an inability to function normally.

I believe that having an objective professional listen and interpret our thoughts and feelings can improve both the mental and physical health of almost anyone, something no one should be ashamed to do.

Here at University of San Diego, there are a wide variety of services offered to students in need of counseling or support. Organizations such as The Health Center, Career Services, The Counseling Center, and The Center for Health and Wellness Promotion all offer counseling services for students.

USD freshman Lindsay Fitzpatrick is considering a career in counseling and is currently

enrolled in a peer mentoring class.

"I think counseling is a good thing because it gives you an outside opinion and provides students the clarity that is necessary to cope with difficult situations," Fitzpatrick said.

More people might be willing to attend counseling or other guidance services if society were more accepting of the idea of searching outside ourselves to solve internal issues.

Unfortunately, American culture emphasizes the importance of coping as an individual and the idea of every man for himself.

Freshman Amy Maltz speculates on the potential reasons why counseling has such a negative connotation.

"Society trains us to view counseling as an indication that something is wrong with us or with our brains," Maltz said.

During my senior year of high school, I suffered a personal struggle with severe anxiety. I was able to experience firsthand what it feels like to have to seek professional help for a disorder that many may consider

to be petty or insignificant.

While at first I was ashamed and embarrassed to admit to myself and others that I regularly attended counseling, by the end of my treatment I realized that turning to others in a time of need is not a sign of weakness.

In fact, the ability to ask for help when needed is a strength, especially if it means you will have a community of supporters rallying behind you.

Attending counseling on a regular basis has enabled me to work through many of my anxieties and become a stronger, more balanced individual.

I believe that counseling is a wonderful mechanism that provides the perspective and guidance every healthy person needs. If you ever feel like life is too much to handle or you need someone to talk to, I hope you do not hesitate to take advantage of the many counseling services USD has to offer.

These resources are made available to students to empower them to put mental health as a priority, not as an afterthought or something to be ashamed of.

Starbucks makes progressive steps

Starbucks attempts to start discussion with the #RaceTogether campaign

AMY MALTZ
CONTRIBUTOR

When imagining a Starbucks visit, you most likely envision finding refreshment in iced coffees and blended smoothies, not necessarily promoting diversity and starting a conversation about race. However, this is exactly what Starbucks is trying to do with its new Race Together initiative. Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz unveiled this new campaign as an attempt to include Starbucks in the conversation on diversity that has been sweeping the nation in light of recent events.

Schultz announced the campaign on March 20 as an initiative that would encourage customers to discuss the topic of racism.

Schultz suggested that baristas at the popular coffee chain should, if they felt comfortable, write "Race Together" on the cup that was handed to a customer. The exchange would indicate an opportunity to begin a conversation about race if the barista and customer both wanted to.

Schultz wrote a letter explaining the new campaign.

"It is an initiative to stimulate conversation, compassion and action around publishing and in stores across America," Schultz said.

Soon after the initiative was launched, however, protests poured in. One argument against Race Together was that the



Starbucks attempts to start a nationwide conversation on race with the Race Together campaign

Photo Courtesy of Quartz/ Flickr

time that employees have with customers is not long enough to have a productive conversation about such an important topic.

Another was that the company was placing the weight of solving racism on the shoulders of its employees.

After intense backlash, Schultz retracted the program.

"An issue as tough as racial and ethnic inequality requires risk-taking and tough-minded action," Schultz said.

"And let me reassure you that our conviction and commitment to the notion of equality and opportunity for all has never been stronger."

The intensity of the arguments against Race Together are puzzling. Having

a conversation beyond general pleasantries with your favorite Starbucks barista is not detrimental to society, but rather a creative way to spark an influential conversation.

Freshman Elena Goodenberger provides a potential answer to the complaints Race Together has received.

"I think that racism is a subject that people are generally uncomfortable talking about," Goodenberger said.

If this is the case though, then encouraging conversation about race may help to dispel the sensitivity that surrounds racism as a topic. Given the recent events such as Ferguson and other stories of police brutality in the news, many believe

a larger-scale conversation on race needs to be started.

Freshman Nora Cheikh, however, does not believe this is an effective way to do it.

"It's not necessarily a bad idea, but I don't think it is what will make things better," Cheikh said. "The race issue is much bigger than a hash tag on a coffee cup."

There are positives and negatives to the Starbucks initiative. Whether or not it would have been successful in breaking down the barriers surrounding racism is unclear, as it was not given the time to test this goal. However, it is refreshing to see a corporation with as much power as Starbucks making moves to bring equality and empathy to our society as a whole.

Eating disorders among USD students

Our proximity to the beach and society's standards combine to create serious body pressure

SAM VOGUE
CONTRIBUTOR

It is no secret that within the media, women are portrayed as attractive, thin, flawless, and always desirable individuals. At this point, the portrayal is so common that the American public is becoming desensitized to the standards that are constantly held for women.

But what the American public does not realize is how these depictions and standards affect women of all ages, specifically teens and those in their early twenties.

The high standards that women are held to tend to ignite a subconscious desire to resemble the look that has come to define beauty.

Not that any of this is remotely justified or right by any stretch of the imagination, but nevertheless, women across the country are conforming to fit the standards – literally.

Unfortunately, one of the ways that more and more women desire to achieve this “glamorous” image is through eating disorders. And quite frankly, there is nothing glamorous about that.

As a sophomore here at the University of San Diego, I can definitely vouch for the fact that, yes, there is some sort of underlying pressure for

the female population to be consistently in the best shape and always swimsuit ready. I mean, we live in San Diego where the weather never drops below 60 degrees and the weekends are filled with endless sunshine.

Bikini season is, therefore, 365 days a year. However, that does not mean that women here have to hold themselves to these unrealistic Barbie Doll body image standards.

The sad truth is that sometimes, whether we notice it or not, the pressure gets to women in ways that we may not even realize. In turn, it shapes our lifestyles and habits in an unhealthy way.

The issue with these types of body image benchmarks is that the way of achieving quick results can rapidly shape a girl's lifestyle in a way that she probably never would have intended.

As a result, that one fad diet or juice cleanse that seems like a quick and easy solution becomes a slippery slope.

The outcome can be incredibly serious and unless those who are affected by it either seek help on their own or get it from friends and family, the results can be life threatening.

In college, it is hard enough balancing classes, social life, and the future that the additional stress of an eating disorder is

more than what any student can handle. The stress of coping with and treating an eating disorder is more time taken out of already very busy students' days, another unfortunate side effect to these issues.

When asked about what percentage of college females had any type of eating disorder, current USD students' responses varied, but most guesses were under 25 percent.

Sophomore Savannah Jensen comments on these percentages.

“It is more than you would expect,” Jensen said.

According to the Multi-Service Eating Disorders Association, 91 percent of college females have attempted to control their weight by dieting.

Ontop of that, a staggering 40 percent of female college students have actual eating disorders.

Initially, I was shocked by these statistics. I realize that eating disorders are most common among college-aged women, but I had no idea how high the percentages really were.

However, USD student Haeley Hutchison was not as surprised by this statistic.

“You would never expect so many people to have eating disorders,” Hutchinson said.

“Even when they are not that severe, they are still a huge issue.”

These statistics make it clear that dieting and the pressure to be thin in a college environment can quickly turn into something as harmful as a full on eating disorder.

The disparity between reality and what men believe about the prevalence of eating disorders is even more staggering.

It is a common belief amongst men that eating disorders tend to be more of an unrecognized myth. This mostly stems from the fact that eating disorders are more common among females than males, especially college-aged women.

When asked to guess the percentage of college-aged women affected by eating disorders, a group of sophomore male students responded with guesses ranging from 5 to 10 percent.

Considering the guesses were around 35 percent off the mark, it is clear that the reality of eating disorders is much less prevalent in the realm of college males than females.

Sophomore Garret Bright was in disbelief upon learning that 40 percent of college women are affected by eating disorders.

“Absolutely shocking; the fact that the number is even remotely close to half is alarming,” Bright said.

All types of eating disorders occur at a wide range of ages between both males and females.

Eating disorder awareness should be stressed within community settings similar to USD's, where the desired beach bodies are sought after.

In addition to seeking help from friends and family, the Health Center offers anonymous help and informational pamphlets for those struggling with these issues.

No matter what the severity, tackling eating disorders head on and stressing their relevance is becoming more of a priority on college campuses across America.

Here at USD, we are no exception. As a Changemaker campus, we should not be shoving these problems to the side.

Rather, students need to engage the issues and understand that there is a way to address and overcome such a taboo topic in today's society.

I know that it is hard not to buy into the way the media and society portray women and the impossible standards that follow. But at the end of the day, the important thing is that you are happy with yourself, and what you stand for.

Women, especially female college students, have so much to offer the world. Instead of focusing on your image, focus on your talents. Trust me, the world will be a better place if you focus on you as a person, instead of you as an image.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Vista strongly encourages letters to the editor from students, faculty, staff, administration and the community.

Correspondence should be sent to **managing@usdvista.com** with the subject line “Letter to the Editor.”

Submissions should be limited to 500 words and must include verifiable contact information. Letter content is subject to editing for clarity and style.

The Vista does not publish anonymous letters, those addressed to a third party or letters in poor taste.

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THE VISTA

EARTH MONTH

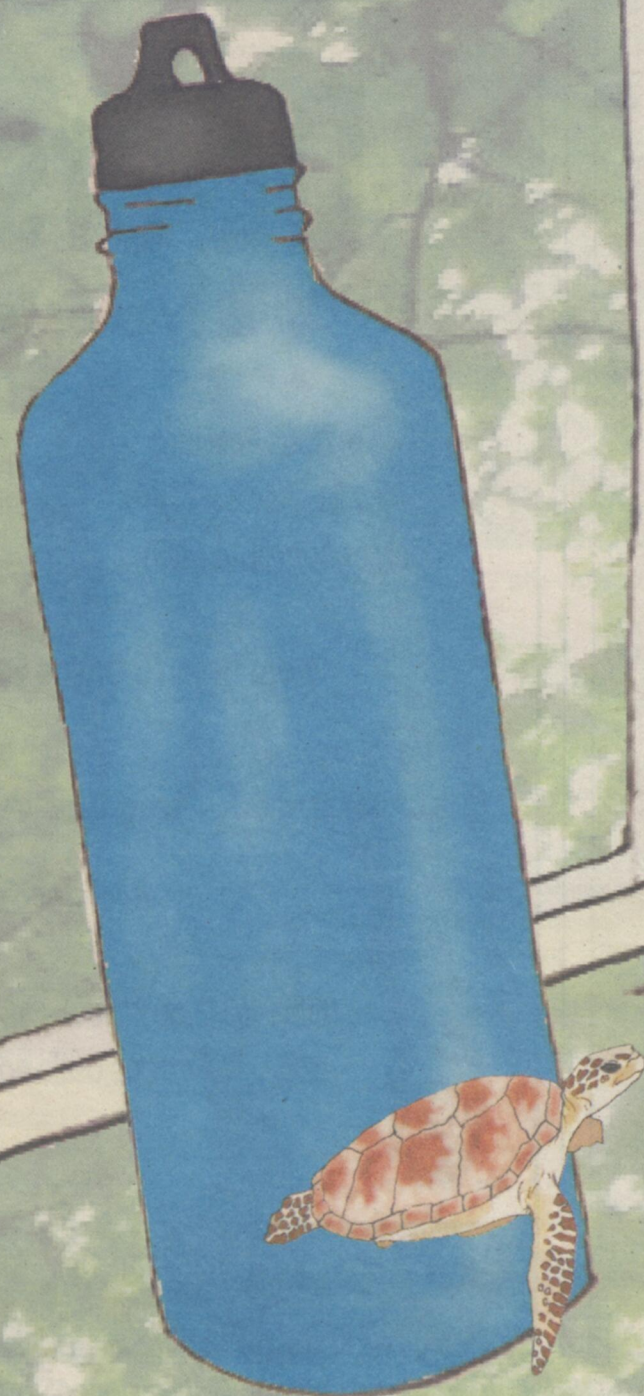
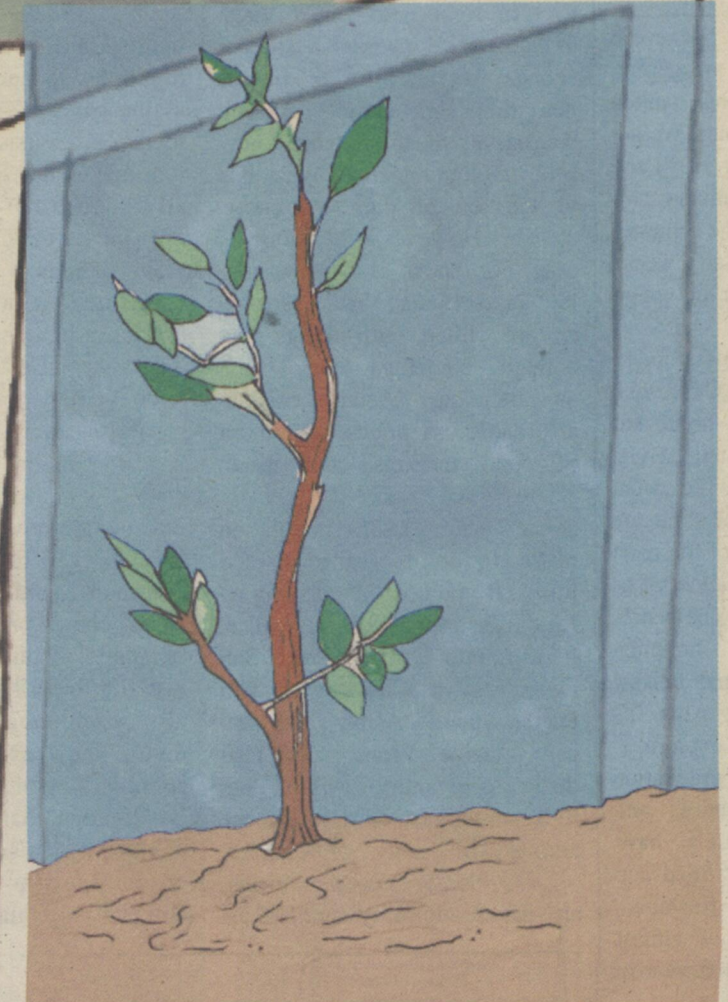
APRIL 22 IS EARTH DAY

TIPS

- Recycle old electronics at the USD recycling center
- Get a reusable water bottle and refill it around campus
- Turn off the A/C and open up the windows
- Meatless Monday: be a vegetarian for a day, one pound of beef takes 2500 gallons of water to produce
- Commuters? Start carpooling.
- Beach Clean Up
- Turn the lights out when you leave the room
- Shop online. Save the carbon.
- Usually drive down to Starbucks? Take a walk down the hill.
- Switch out your light bulbs to LED or Compact Fluorescent Lights
- Instead of using machines at the gym, go running outside.
- Unplug your chargers before you leave your room in the morning
- Start going to the local Farmer's Markets.
- Check out the locations at www.SDFarmBureau.org

EARTH DAY FAIR

APRIL 21, 2015 SLP 12-2PM



Wait. It's April?



KAITLIN GOODHART
FEATURE EDITOR
@itsskg

Spring break has come and gone and now we are getting ready to make the final stretch toward finals and summer. We are already halfway through April and it feels like it was January two weeks ago. Where did the semester go? Sure we still have six weeks but I swear fall semester did not go by this quickly.

For those of you who are not from San Diego, or California, and are moving back home for the summer, I highly suggest you start taking advantage of what San Diego has to offer. You are currently living in one of the most ideal places to live and most of us are cramped up inside. The beach, local Farmer's Markets, shopping, and various international cuisine options are all at our fingertips. It's okay to venture out and explore.

Seniors have graduation around the corner, juniors and sophomores like myself have internships and jobs lined up for the summer, and freshman, congratulations. You have almost made it through your first year of college.

Since I'm in awe that it is already the middle of April and we only have six weeks left until summer, I started to think about everything I wanted to do before it was time to leave the perfect beach weather of San Diego and return home to Las Vegas to start an internship.

An OMG it's April Bucket List was most definitely one of the better ideas I have had. While writing my bucket list, I realized how much we all take the beautiful city we go to school in for granted. How many times this semester have you gone to the beach? Now ask yourself how many times you could have gone to the beach and just simply didn't. Get down to the beach and do your homework in the sand. You and your friends are hanging out inside on a sunny afternoon? Move the party to the beach and bring some speakers.

We need to start living it up with the Spring semester quickly coming to an end. Yes, we're swamped with homework, study guides, and final papers, but that's all the more reason to start taking advantage of what San Diego has to offer. Let's be honest, USD's location factored into your choice of choosing it as your home for four years.

Six weeks means six more weekends and six more Mondays. Don't look back and regret not doing something. Take advantage of what you have in your backyard here at USD. You can literally see SeaWorld from the patio at Bert's.

These last six weeks are a stretch with no break in between. So you may as well make the best of them; because before you know it, May will be here.

Take a chance, turn left on Linda Vista

University of San Diego students know little about what lies to the left of USD.

BRIDGET VUONA
CONTRIBUTOR

Day after day, students are piling out of the University of San Diego wait at the light to turn right onto Linda Vista. While the average student spends the majority of his or her time on campus during weekdays, most students know little to nothing about what lies to the left of their university.

However, what students may not know is that turning left onto Linda Vista leads to an area filled with things that college students love, such as delicious Asian cuisine, affordable gas prices, a plethora of food markets, and more.

The area's heavily concentrated Asian population makes for some great local food joints. If you continue driving up Linda Vista for about three miles, it turns into Convoy street: San Diego's own Chinatown, with every type of Asian food you can imagine. From spicy Thai dishes to gigantic bowls of Pho, it is sometimes hard to choose among the array of eateries.

Senior Drew Parrish, an interdisciplinary humanities

major, has no such dilemma when he ventures up Linda Vista. His go-to spot is always The Original Sab-E-Lee, a very successful Thai restaurant about five minutes away from USD by car.

"Since eating is likely humankind's best activity, the highlights up there are as plentiful as the pages of your professor's textbook," Parrish said. "Sab-E-Lee makes the Thai food to end all Thai food, the drunken noodles once put me to sleep for 12 hours."

Senior Aaron Sherman, a business major and Chinese studies minor, noted that Linda Vista is also filled with a wide variety of multi-cultural grocery stores and markets.

"In the same shopping center that my favorite Pho place is located (Pho Hao), there is a big Vietnamese grocery," Sherman said. "They have super cheap produce and tons of ethnic products. It's honestly just fun to walk around and see all the different products you didn't know existed. I recently stumbled upon a place called La Tiendita that kind of defies a category. It's a combination of a Mexican mini-mart, a butcher shop, and a taco stand."

Sherman started routinely driving over to the Linda Vista area during his Junior year, right after he returned from studying abroad in China for a full year.

In addition to its plethora of eateries, Linda Vista is also a great area to buzz through if you want to save money while running errands. The gas stations in the area are consistently 10 cents cheaper than any located in Sports Arena. There is also a Bank of America, a free public library stocked with all the newest best-sellers, and multiple 99 cent stores about five minutes away from USD.

Linda Vista has a lot to offer for college students, yet very few Toreros travel in that direction.

Sophomore Aria Nisco, a Psychology major, admits that she has only driven through the area once.

"I've driven through some parts of Linda Vista that don't particularly seem safe, so it doesn't come as a huge surprise to me that students might not be compelled to go over there," Nisco said.

Nisco's fears are not entirely unfounded. Residents

of Linda Vista consider the area to be safe but suggest that students avoid roaming around the area late at night since criminal activity is more likely to occur during those hours.

The perception of danger may deter some students from turning left onto Linda Vista, but most students are completely unaware that area is home to more than just USD and the Starbucks plaza in general.

While Sherman himself is an exception to that trend, he shared his opinion on why students who live at the beach may have little interest in the area.

"With so many kids living on Mission Beach, USD is almost a commuter campus where you come for class then go back to the beach," Sherman said. "Part of what makes Linda Vista cool is the fact that it's an ethnic mixing pot with all kinds of strange little shops. That being said, it's just hard to compete with all that PB and Mission have to offer."

Next time you find yourself sitting at the light with your stomach grumbling and your bank account diminishing, take a chance and turn left. You might just like what you find.

Torero Spotlight: Charger Girl Tyler Myerly

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AND

ALEXANDRIA FRANZ
CONTRIBUTOR

On April 4, 2015, the Charger Girls auditions began, in search of 28 talented girls to become part of their 2015-2016 team. The Charger Girls are known as one of professional sport's most talented and respected cheer and dance teams. Many cheerleaders and dancers dream of becoming Charger Girls and entering into the professional sports industry.

University of San Diego sophomore Tyler Myerly shared that dream. Myerly has been a member of USD's Spirit Team for the past year and will now be taking her talents to the Charger Girls. Myerly was one of hundreds of girls that auditioned for the team, but now she will fulfill her dream of being a Charger Girl.

With over 14 years of dance and cheer experience, Myerly has been dancing for the majority of her life, prepping her for the situation she is in today. Myerly says she has dreamed of being a Charger Girl since her freshman year in high school but never thought this dream would come true.

The process of the Charger Girls auditions is intense, nerve-racking, and an experience of a lifetime.

"Nothing can calm your anxiety when you're in a room full of 350 beautiful and talented

young women who all want the something you want," Myerly said.

The tryout process consisted of a dance audition as well as an interview.

"Interviews were the most difficult part because dancing is what I know how to do, not talking under pressure," Myerly said.

Although she knew what to expect as far as the tryout process, after the tryout process was over, Myerly felt a huge sense of relief and a rush of excitement.

When choosing between auditioning for the Charger Girls and continuing on with the USD Spirit Team, Myerly was faced with a tough decision. She has always been full of school spirit and has put her heart into every performance, but being a Charger Girl is an opportunity of a lifetime.

"I have always dreamed of doing Charger Girls and when the opportunity to try out came across me I took it," Myerly said. "I loved my year here on Spirit Team because I'm a little too enthusiastic about school spirit, but I know that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I can't wait to begin."

Lucky for Myerly, she has had an amazing support system with her every step of the way.

"As soon as I found out, I texted my family and then immediately texted our Spirit Team group message," Myerly said. "I was so lucky to have so many supportive people through this whole process."

Myerly is extremely grateful for not only the

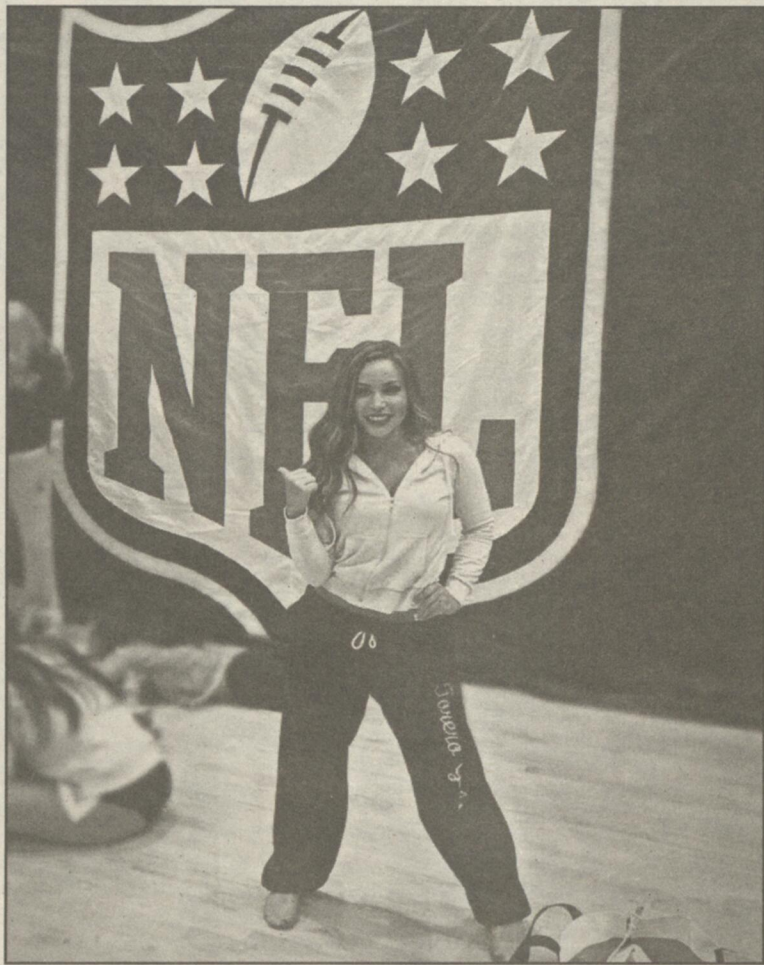


Photo Courtesy of Tyler Myerly

Tyler Myerly is now one of San Diego's Charger Girls.

opportunity and experience of auditioning for Charger Girls, but also her team and family members who have encouraged her. With so many years of experience, Myerly was still humbled by the tryout process.

While the game schedule is not yet released, Myerly is extremely enthusiastic about what the season will hold for the Chargers and for herself as a Charger Girl.

"The excitement and

the adrenaline on game days will probably end up being some of the greatest experiences of my life," Myerly said. "I honestly cannot wait to run out of that inflatable helmet for the first time and hear thousands of fans screaming. It will be the experience of a lifetime."

Keep your eye out for the USD's new Charger Girl, Tyler Myerly, at Qualcomm stadium this fall for the upcoming football season.

App of the week: Bumble is changing the game

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A trending new app has come to the University of San Diego. Released in November 2014, Bumble is a newly updated app to connect you to people around you.

Much like Tinder, Bumble connects you to people in your area by swiping left, or swiping right. The Bumble user's profile is connected to their Facebook profile, but also allows them to select age, distance, and gender of who they wish to make connections with. Bumble allows its users to change the order of their profile pictures and add an About Me section.

Bumble is attempting to change the rules of the dating game. When using Bumble to make connections, the girls get to make the first move and have 24 hours to say something or else the connection will disappear.

To help you keep your Bumble profile 'hive' organized, users can easily view profiles they have connected with. The app also allows users to unmatched from a user once a chat has been initiated. Bumble requires users to be at least 17 years of age to start new conversations and users 18 or older may not connect with anyone younger than 18.



Screenshot courtesy of Kaitlin Goodhart/The Vista



Screenshot courtesy of Kaitlin Goodhart/The Vista

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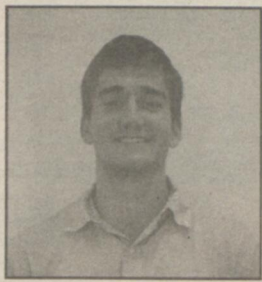
The students thank all employees who are giving gifts, big and small, as part of this year's Employee Giving Campaign.

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EMPLOYEE GIVING CAMPAIGN 2015 • APRIL 8 – MAY 6

Keep your head



KEVIN KARN
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
@kkarn7

Recently, I reached a milestone that some spend most of their college careers waiting for. It is a time where doors are opened and bank accounts shrink. When freedom is achieved and the destination of adulthood seems in grasp. I turned 21.

Now, I remember every minute of my twenty-first birthday. I remember the anticlimactic moment of the security guard taking my I.D. and immediately handing it back to me without question. I remember the humbling experience of walking into the Comber and realizing it is not any nicer inside than it is outside. And I remember the countless hours of singing and dancing with half of the school on a Wednesday night. I remember it all.

I realize that this puts me in the minority, too. Birthdays should be unforgettable, but number twenty-one? That's the one that you're supposed to leave at the bar. I was reminded of this the next day when every other question I got was, "Did you blackout?" The surprised and often disappointed looks I received after answering that question were a little confusing to me. Was I supposed to blackout?

Conventional wisdom says no. Entering an uncontrollable state of intoxication where memories are erased and experiences are blurred is something I think many would view as a negative. But that's not the point. The point of this column is not to discuss whether blacking out is dangerous or not. It is. No, the point is to examine the casual nature with which people talk about it.

Because blacking out is not casual. So to write off a night out by saying, "I blacked out," is not okay. It ignores the other people that you interacted with when you were in that state. It ignores those that you fist-fought with as well as those who you befriended. The biggest misconception of blacking out is that it is a personal issue that the person needs to resolve on their own. When someone is out of control, it puts every other person in the room at risk because his or her actions are unpredictable and out of character.

That is not to say that every blackout ends in harm, either. People have had incredible nights of enjoyment, and still woken up with the same blank space in their minds. Maybe it's just me, but life is too beautiful not to want to remember it. The good, the bad, the awkward. All experiences are an opportunity to grow as an individual and to impact those around you. And that is impossible when you blackout. We are always stressing the importance of living in the moment and being present and never wasting a moment. So why would you do the exact opposite of all of those things?

Kappa Alpha Theta crowns Mr. University



Photo Courtesy of Tandy Johnson

Ryan Safar of Beta Theta Pi took home the crown of Mr. University on Thursday, April 9 in Shiley Theatre in front of hundreds of students.

CAITLAN BERTRAM
CONTRIBUTOR

On April 9, the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority hosted their 14th annual Mr. University pageant in Shiley Theatre at the University of San Diego.

According to the chapter's website, Mr. University is the largest philanthropy event on campus. It includes USD Greek and non-Greek students, faculty, and members of the San Diego community. The pageant raises money for the Theta Foundation and the Thetas philanthropy, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

Thetas mission was to find the next Mr. University by meeting ten male participants representing various students organizations. Each organization represented planets that the audiences got to travel to through the performances.

The contestants launched the night with an alien group performance to Katy Perry's pop song "E.T." before showcasing their planet's talent through original dance and song routines.

USD junior Ashley Escobar attended the event for the second

time and shows her support for the contestants.

"My favorite thing about Mr. U is the fact that these men were willing to put themselves out there and just give it their all," Escobar said. "It was amazing how dedicated the men were."

All the men worked to raise money for the charities and work alongside their Theta coaches for the talent section of the competition.

After an intense questions and answers round and improvisational performance of Frank Sinatra's "L.O.V.E.," the results were tallied. Mr. Fiji, Shane McKeighan was named the 2015 Mr. Congeniality. Mr. Associated Students, Crash Ketcham named Runner-up and Mr. Beta Theta Pi, Ryan Safar named the 2015 Mr. University.

This is the second year in a row Mr. Beta Theta Pi has won Mr. University and first time for senior, Ryan Safar. Safar said this was his first time ever performing in front of a crowd and participating in the pageant.

"My freshmen year someone asked me to become a contestant and I kept saying no,

said no, and there's no next year, so I faced my fears of stage fight, and it's great," Safar said. "I had a lot of people supporting me through this event."

Georgia Rust, a senior member of Kappa Alpha Theta, was one of the hosts for the night. She explained what it was like to host her last Theta event.

"It was a whirlwind," Rust said. "The contestants were amazing and really easy to work with. It was easy but crazy which made it a lot of fun."

In the weeks leading up to the event, the contestants sold over 50 tickets each for the event, fundraised for the charities, and participated in coin wars to collect loose change for the foundations.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from Mr. University goes to the Theta Foundation and Theta's philanthropy, CASA.

The Theta Foundation supports Theta members all over the nation with scholarships, grants, and educational and leadership programs.

CASA is a network of 951 community-based programs that help abused and neglected children find a loving permanent

home. California has 100,000 foster children - more than any other state in the nation. Each child moves an average of 10 times and attends five to six different high schools. Last fall, Thetas hosted their first Foster Faces event to raise awareness of CASA.

Rust highlighted the importance of the proceeds going to the two organizations.

"Our chapter, we definitely pride ourselves on the amount of money that we raise every year," Rust said. "It means a lot that we can say we donate \$30,000 to CASA and the Theta Foundation because that is one of the reasons why many of the women join our chapter, to give back to these causes. It is really satisfying and fulfilling."

At Grand Convention last year, the chapter was nationally recognized for Mr. University as "Top in Giving to CASA" and "Runner Up for Top in Overall Giving."

Mr. University has already raised \$10,000 from the event and will continue to be collecting donations until the end of the year on www.gofundme.com/usdmru.

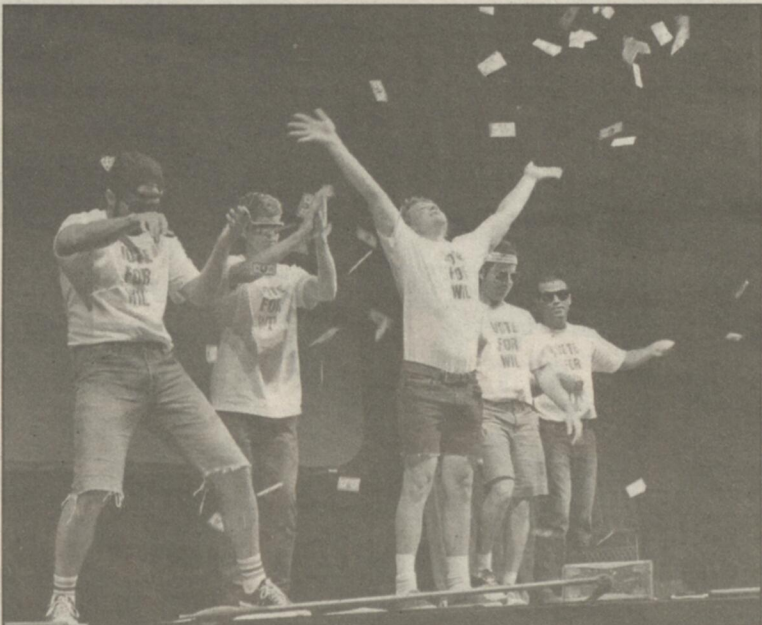


Photo Courtesy of Tandy Johnson

Will Mede of Delta Tau Delta performs on the stage in Shiley Theatre.

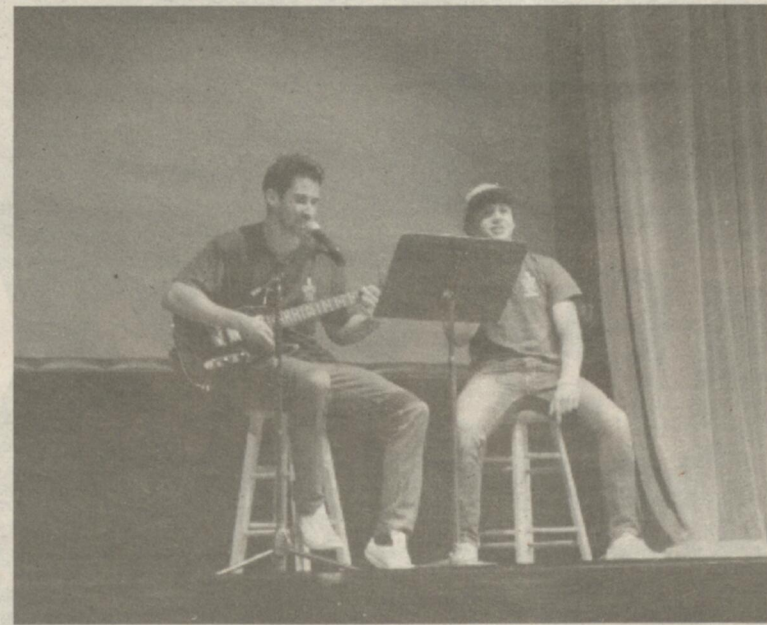


Photo Courtesy of Tandy Johnson

Shane McKeighan and Alec Palmer of FIJI perform a duet.

'Furious 7': Still fast, still furious, still unrealistic

DYLAN BROCKMEYER
ASST. A&C EDITOR
@dbrock08

Warning: This article contains spoilers.

Ride or die. The iconic catch phrase that made the "Fast and Furious" franchise famous might finally be approaching cliché. The seventh installment in the movies premiered on April 3, 2015 and has grossed \$800.5 million worldwide in its second week according to a report in The Guardian. "Fast & Furious 7" marks a best for the series.

This movie features characters from across the movie franchise, including cast members from "Tokyo Drift," in addition to well-known personalities such as Kurt Russell, Djimon Hounsou and

Nathalie Emmanuel.

In "Fast & Furious" style, the entire movie is bad one-liners and ridiculous stunts with flying cars, large explosions and over-the-top fight scenes. And they didn't skimp on the girls, engines, Coronas or soundtrack. But as fans of the franchise know, that's the whole reason to go see the movies. There was never more than five minutes of just dialogue or dramatic acting, and even when you thought there could be some significant plot development, suddenly there was an explosion or an all out brawl.

"Furious 7" picks up right where "Fast & Furious 6" left off. The last installment had a surprise ending revealing Jason Statham, normally a hero in the action movie world, as a villain with a craving for vengeance.

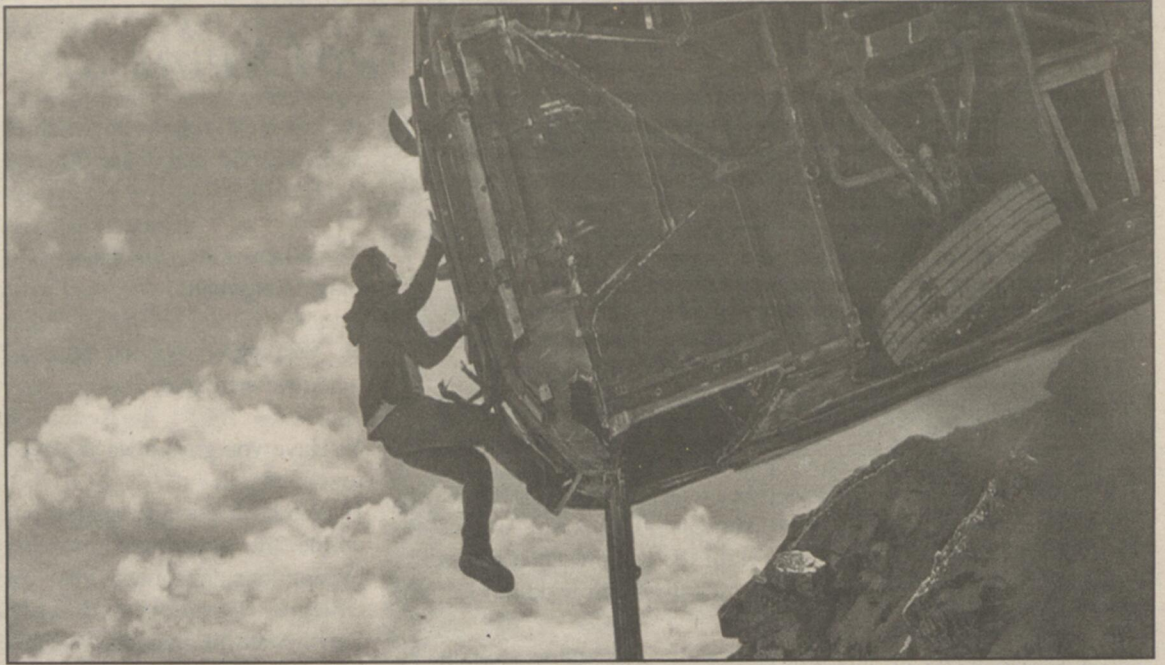


Photo Courtesy of Universal Studios

Furious 7 features incredible stunts and impossible situations that no other movie franchise could pull off.

Dominic Toretto's (Vin Diesel) crew is back in Los Angeles trying to slide back into to a more domestic lifestyle. Not wasting any time to get right to the action, the first scene in the movie is a race at the desert grounds that Toretto and Letty Ortiz (Michelle Rodriguez) started. Toretto is attempting to help Ortiz regain her memory so she feels more at home with her crew.

Mia Toretto and Brian O'Connor (Jordana Brewster and Paul Walker) are living with Dom and raising their new son Jack. Brian is trying to adjust to the dad lifestyle, but as in frequently mentioned throughout the movie he misses the bullets.

In the last bit of tying up loose ends from the last film, Deckard Shaw (Jason Statham) breaks into Luke Hobbs' (The Rock) computer to find the files on everyone in Toretto's crew who took part in taking out his little brother Owen Shaw (Luke

Evans). Cue outrageous fight scene.

Watching The Rock fight Jason Statham is wildly entertaining. Statham remains a class act while The Rock uses brute force and large punches. They throw each other through windows and manage to break every single piece of furniture in the entire room.

The rest of the fight scenes in the movie follow along the same lines. There is ridiculous amounts of throwing, kung fu, punching, kicking, running and flipping off walls and all accompanied by snarky little remarks. Toretto, O'Connor and The Rock all seem to try their best with the small amounts of bad dialogue they're given, but even a well experienced actor like Statham struggled to make the delivery believable.

"Furious 7" takes the suspension of disbelief to a whole new level for the audience. Besides the truly impossible

stunts between cars and people, the mere fact that basic runners or hoodlums from the streets of Los Angeles would be included and specifically requested for government attempts to quell terrorist attacks is egregious. There were also obvious fight scenes, and one in particular where Shaw was crushed by tons of concrete slabs of rubble, where someone should have died.

The most touching, real and believable moment of the entire movie was easily at the end. "Furious 7" concluded with a tribute to Paul Walker; many of his famous scenes and smiles were strung together with a Vin Diesel voice over how Walker was and always would be a true brother. In the very last scene of the movie, Walker and Diesel take two separate exits at an intersection. Walker exits the main road while Diesel drives on, the screen flashes bright white with two words on screen "For Paul."



Photo Courtesy of Amazon

The crew returns for more cars, girls and fights than ever before.

This Week's Events in San Diego:

16

J BOOG

BELLY UP

9-11:45 P.M.

\$25

(21+)

17

THE HUNTING GROUND

FILM SCREENING

UC FORUM C

5:30 P.M.

17-19

ANNUAL LAKESIDE

RODEO

LAKESIDE RODEO GROUNDS

\$5-10

18-19

OCEANSIDE DAYS OF

ART

DOWNTOWN OCEANSIDE

10:00-5:00 P.M.

19

FALLBROOK AVOCADO

FESTIVAL

MAIN STREET, FALLBROOK

20-24

L.I.F.E. WEEK

SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

LOCATED ACROSS CAMPUS

21

QPR: QUESTION,

PERSUADE, REFER,

SUICIDE PREVENTION

UC 128

12:15-1:15 P.M.

22

PLACAS: THE MOST

DANGEROUS TATTOO

IPJ THEATER

10:00-11:30 A.M.

Masters Champ



HUNTER JAMESON
SPORTS EDITOR
@HJamo

The Masters is one of the most prolific professional golf tournaments of the year. The winner joins a very elite group of golfers, earns a large chunk of money, and gets to sport the notable green jacket, which earns you a spot in the golf history books.

Jordan Spieth is a 21 year-old superstar who, in just his second Masters appearance, took home the green jacket and \$1.4 million last weekend.

The Masters is played in Augusta, Ga. at the Augusta National Golf Course. In years past, the golf veterans are the players competing for the green jacket on Sunday, but this year's champion happens to be a young gun with a very bright future.

He is the second youngest winner in tournament history at 21 years, 3 months and 14 days old. In 1997, Tiger Woods won his first of four Masters at an age five months younger than Spieth's. Is this a sign that Spieth will win multiple green jackets in his career? I would guess that he'll be adding more green to his wardrobe by the time he calls it quits.

Personally, this is very eye-opening because I am older than Jordan Spieth. This win moved him to the No. 2 ranked golfer in the world, behind only Rory McIlroy, who is also rather young at just 25.

I think Spieth has the potential to be a phenom in the golf world, possibly even the next Tiger Woods if he plays at this level for the years to come. He has earned approximately \$4.1 million in winnings over the last month, but others have also profited from his performance.

Michael Greller was a 6th grade math teacher a few months ago and quit his job to be Spieth's full-time caddy. To say that was a good decision is an understatement when considering the financial gain.

Greller earns a small percentage of whatever Spieth's prize money is, but when that number is north of \$4 million dollars, the money starts to pile up. It is estimated that Greller has raked in \$375,000 in the past month, while his 6th grade teaching job wouldn't have earned him even one fourth of that amount.

The weekend performance was so dominant that no other golfer came within three strokes of the lead. Spieth broke the Masters record for most birdies with 28, and finished at 18 under par.

With the average age of Masters champions sitting at 32 years old, this performance by such a young player speaks volumes to his potential. The golf world has a lot to look forward to, and rising stars need to understand the caliber of talent that is emerging.

THE VISTA

Q & A with David and Jacob Hill

USD baseball twins are integral parts of the team

KELLY MCPHERSON
CONTRIBUTOR

The University of San Diego baseball team is experiencing a very successful start to the season. They have beaten five ranked teams and won 12 of their first 15 games against conference opponents. Twin pitchers David and Jacob Hill have been instrumental to the team's success. The Vista caught up with the dynamic duo to discuss baseball and growing up as twins.

VISTA: How many siblings do you guys have?

HILLS: We have five brothers and one sister. Andrew is 30,

Brenna is 28, John is 26, Michael is 23, David and I are 20, and Zach is 16.

V: When did you guys start playing baseball?

H: We started playing baseball when we were five.

V: Have you guys always played together?

H: We have played together our whole life since we were five except our freshman year of college. David went to Long Beach State his freshman year and I went to Orange Coast College, a junior college in Costa Mesa, CA. After his freshman year David transferred to OCC with me for our sophomore year. We

both committed to USD during that fall, 2013, and we ended up winning the State Championship that year for OCC, spring 2014.

V: How do people tell you apart?

H: People say it's the eyes. I guess David has more slanted eyes than I do. Also David has this signature goatee now. Although we both used to go for the long hair look, David rocks the long hair and I have the short hair. As far as personalities go, David is more of a stupid-funny with his humor and I'm more of a dry-sarcastic type myself.

V: Do you have family members who play baseball? If so, where?

H: All of our brothers played baseball growing up. Andrew, our oldest brother, only played at a junior college but he was a stud and paved the way for the rest of us. John played at Long Beach State and then transferred to Concordia University in Irvine, CA where he was then drafted by the Phillies, in the 19th round in 2011. John played for two years in the minors and was let go. Michael also played at LBST and was drafted in 2014 in the 22nd round by the Kansas City Royals and is currently in their minor league system playing for the Lexington Legends. Zach, our younger brother, is a sophomore playing at El Modena high school in Orange, Ca. He could be the best out of all of us.

DAVID HILL

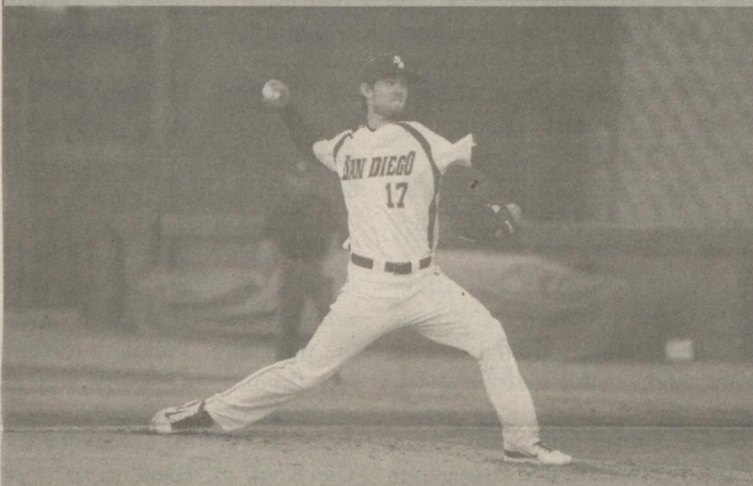


Photo Courtesy of Chris Loucks

Hometown: Orange, CA
Sport: Baseball
Position: Pitcher
Throws: Right
Bats: Right
Jersey Number: 17

VISTA: Growing up, who was your role model? Has that person changed?

DAVID: Growing up my role models were my brothers. They were all great baseball players and I wanted to be just like them. Now I have narrowed my role model down to just one of my brothers. Although I look up to all of them, I am truly inspired by my oldest brother Andrew. He is the hardest working man I know. He recently graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a micro biology degree at age 30 after having every possible job in the book and decided he was too smart and went back to school. It wasn't on the baseball field but his hard work and dedication to get his degree is what I aspire to apply to my life.

V: What do you want to do after you graduate?

D: As of now all I know I want to do is play baseball.

V: What brought you to play here at USD?

D: We took a visit in the fall of 2014, loved the campus, loved the area and received an offer from coach Hill that sealed the deal.

V: What do you want out of this season as a team and personally?

D: For this season I want us to win the WCC championship and then make it to Omaha and win the college World Series. Personally I want to do everything I can to help my team achieve those goals.

V: Who is your favorite MLB player?

D: Joc Pederson. Rookie Center fielder for the dodgers with a sweet swing.

V: What is your favorite MLB team?

D: Dodgers.

V: What are the three most important things to you?

D: The 3 most important things in my life are: 1. My Faith 2. My Family 3. Baseball

V: Tell us three fun facts about you.

D: Let's see... I can't wink! I'm a closet singer... And I think pugs are the worst kind of dogs.

JACOB HILL

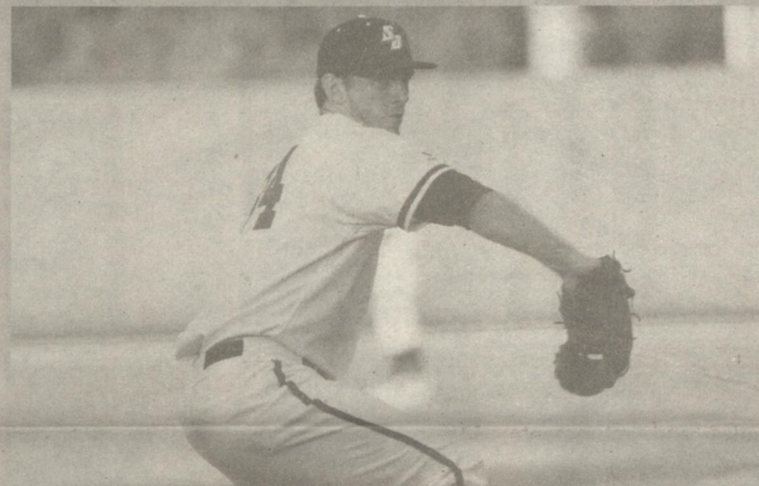


Photo Courtesy of Chris Loucks

Hometown: Orange, CA
Sport: Baseball
Position: Pitcher
Throws: Left
Bats: Left
Jersey Number: 34

VISTA: Growing up, who was your role model? Has that person changed?

JACOB: Growing up my role model was my brother Andrew. And that is still the case today.

V: What do you want to do after you graduate?

J: I have no idea what I want to do after I graduate. My goal is to have a 20 year career in the MLB.

V: What do you want out of this season as a team and personally?

J: Both as a team and personally I want to make it to Omaha. Something that no team at USD has ever done.

V: Who is your favorite MLB player?

J: Felix Hernandez

V: What is your favorite MLB team?

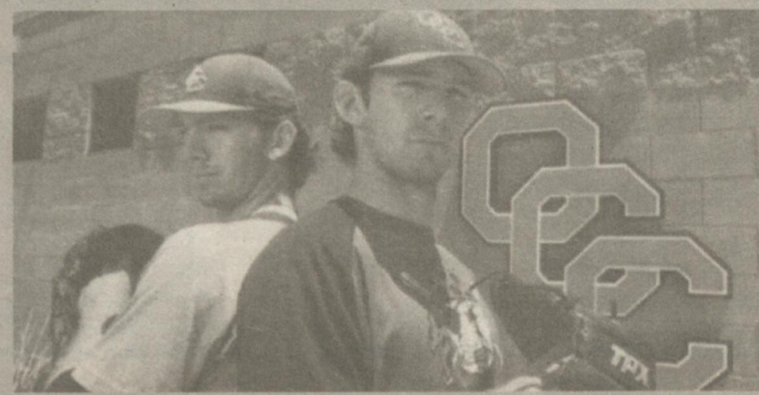
J: LA Dodgers

V: What are the three most important things to you?

J: God, Family, and Baseball. In that order.

V: Tell us three fun facts about you

J: I hate sushi. I have really good squat form. And I can talk to animals.



Kris Bryant on the verge of MLB fame

Former Torero could be in the Major Leagues very soon

ALEXANDRIA FRANZ
CONTRIBUTOR

Baseball is the talk of the town this spring, especially when it comes to the University of San Diego's own Kris Bryant. Bryant, a 2013 alumnus, was the second overall draft pick for the Cubs and recently was sent back to the minors for contractual reasons.

The fact that the Cubs have chosen to keep Bryant in the minor leagues after his impressive performance in spring training has caused some to question the ethics of the business side of baseball. If he spends 12 days in the minors, Bryant's free agency will be postponed by a year, which will be beneficial to the Cubs monetarily.

Head coach of USD baseball Rich Hill says that while this circumstance depicts an obvious flaw in the system, he has no doubt Bryant will overcome this.

"Kris has remained very positive throughout this whole situation," Hill said. "He is the kind of guy who will shrug his shoulders and smile and be the best teammate he can be."

As the second overall draft pick, many see enormous potential in Bryant and have faith in his abilities and his future. Former teammate Wes Judish is no different.

"Regardless of whether he starts making the big bucks a year later, Kris is going to be very successful and he will definitely have a rewarding career," Judish said.

While those close to Bryant do not have any fear for his future, the flaws in the business side of the MLB may be hard to ignore. A similar circumstance occurred in 2012 when the Los Angeles Angels held down Mike Trout. He was held for the first 20 games of the season, from April 6-27.

Once he returned to the

Angels, their season improved drastically. Coach Hill believes that the next time an instance like this occurs, the MLB will be forced to address it.

"The MLB is a business and every business is going to have some flaws," Hill said. "While Kris has remained positive, I know he was bummed that his spring training efforts were not necessarily recognized."

Hill and Judish both agree that Bryant was an extremely valuable and player at USD. "He is a 'once in a lifetime kind of player for a coach,'" Hill said. He received the Golden Spikes Award in 2013, which was also an incredible year for USD Baseball. Hill says he believes Bryant's accomplishments gave him more confidence to be a vocal leader for the team, and that the team truly reaped the benefits.

"Kris represents everything we stand for at USD," Hill said. "He came to the ballpark every

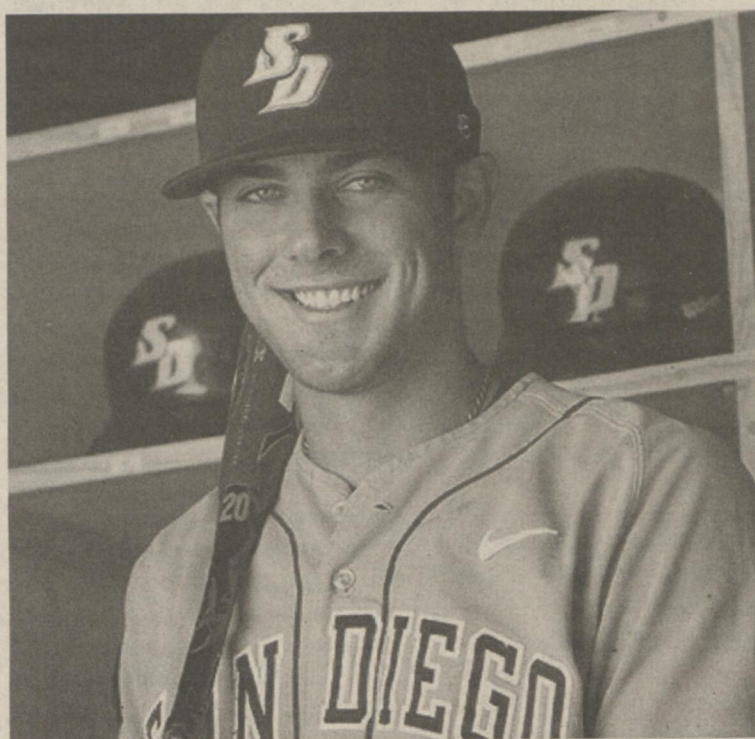


Photo Courtesy of USD Athletics

Bryant had a superb career at USD, winning the Golden Spikes Award in 2013.

day ready to improve and be the best he could be." on the 17th, and his fans are hopeful for what the rest of the season has in store for him.

The Cubs can call Bryant back

season has in store for him.

2015 MLB Season Preview

HUNTER JAMESON
SPORTS EDITOR
@HJamo

After an offseason full of trades and retirements, Major League Baseball is finally back. The San Francisco Giants won the 2014 World Series in seven games against the Kansas City Royals, but they do not have the same team coming into the 2015 season. One of their catalysts, third baseman Pablo Sandoval, failed to re-sign with the team and is now with the Boston Red Sox organization.

The New York Yankees lost their captain, shortstop Derek Jeter, and are looking to rebuild the middle infield with new prospects. Third baseman Alex Rodriguez returns to the Yankees after serving a yearlong suspension for performance enhancing drug use, but should be a strong contribution to an offense that struggled last season.

The Washington Nationals have put together one of the most impressive starting pitching rotations in the history of baseball, on paper at least. The 2014 Cy Young Award winner, pitcher Max Scherzer signed with the Nationals during the offseason after five seasons with the Detroit Tigers.

Over the last two seasons, Scherzer has 38 wins to just eight losses, while compiling over 210 innings pitched in both seasons. This pickup was a huge addition to the already dominant Nationals pitching staff. The five-man rotation includes: Scherzer, Jordan Zimmermann, Stephen Strasburg, Gio Gonzalez and Doug Fister.

The Chicago Cubs also had a successful offseason, signing ace pitcher Jon Lester from the

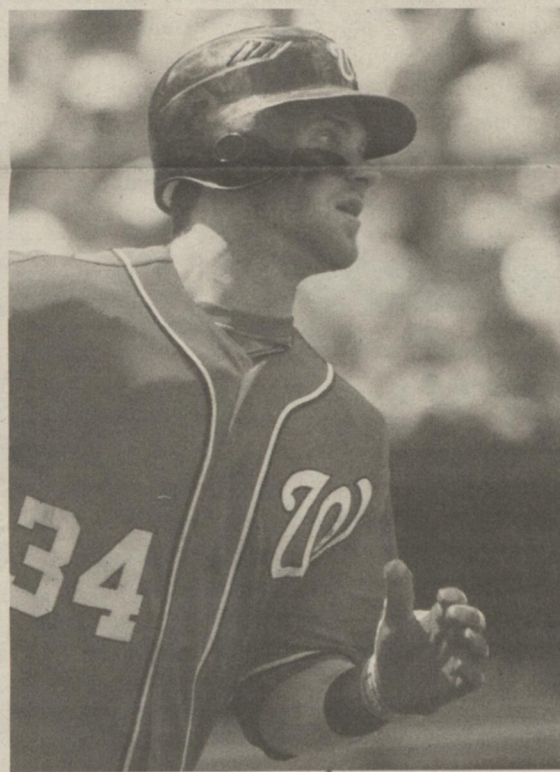
Oakland Athletics, while also realizing the potential in prospect Kris Bryant. The Minor League Player of the Year, Bryant should expect to be in the MLB within the first two months of the season.

Despite the success of the teams already mentioned, the San Diego Padres had the most big-name acquisitions of any team in the MLB over the past six months. Pitcher James Shields, outfielders Wil Myers and Matt Kemp, third baseman Will Middlebrooks, and arguably the best closer in baseball, Craig Kimbrel, all decided to take their talents to the San Diego Padres organization. The Padres had the fourth best earned run average of any pitching staff in baseball during the 2014 season, so the additions of Shields and Kimbrel could catapult them to the No. 1 spot this year. San Diego scored the fewest runs in all of baseball last year, so the much-needed offensive firepower was found in Myers, Kemp and Middlebrooks.

One interesting change occurred, as the Houston Astros, baseball's least successful franchise, brought in veteran relievers to pair with their young nucleus.

There are certain teams in each division that stand out, whether offensively, defensively, or pitching, that make them the favorite to make the playoffs.

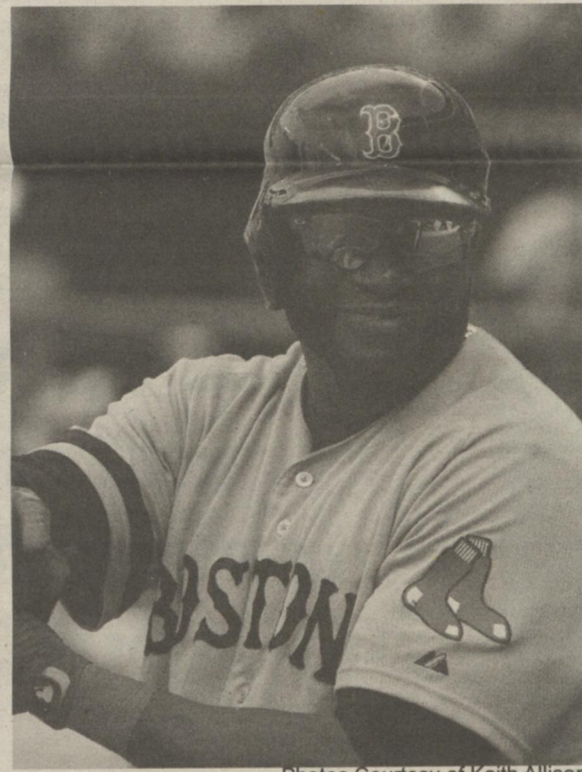
In the American League, the Mariners have established themselves as contenders and have the offense and pitching to compete for an AL West championship. The Detroit Tigers still have Miguel Cabrera and Justin Verlander, but injuries could plague them this season. Pitcher David Price and outfielder Yoenis Cespedes are tremendous talents that set this team apart



Bryce Harper (left) and David Ortiz (right) are two offensive stars that should lead their respective offenses this season. Dodgers have all of the pieces to be great, and the team chemistry is finally coming together. As for the National League Central, the St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Cubs will compete for the playoff spot. They are both fundamentally sound in all aspects, but do not have a specific strength that gives one an edge over the other.

In the National League, the Washington Nationals should be the favorite to win the NL East if they stay healthy. If their offense can back up the pitching staff, they have the potential to make a World Series run.

The National League Central and West divisions have several teams who will compete for a playoff spot. The San Francisco Giants have put together a dynasty by winning three of the last five World Series titles, but the competitiveness of the Padres this season will make it harder than previous years to get out of the division. The



Photos Courtesy of Keith Allison

in each division, they have the chance to win the most games due to a few weak teams in their division. The Kansas City Royals are coming off of a World Series appearance and still have a lot of the key players from last year's team.

The teams that have been favored to make the World Series are the Washington Nationals from the National League and Boston Red Sox from the American League. The Washington Nationals are predicted to win the 2015 World Series championships.

The season has been underway for a week, and California baseball is already exciting. The Padres v.s. Giants series last weekend at Petco Park brought in the highest attendance in park history, which shows that fans are in support of the moves the organization made over the offseason.

Lamont Smith named head coach

USD basketball program brings back a former Torero

MATTHEW ROBERSON
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR
@mroberson22

In sports, we often hear about the narrative that surrounds an athlete coming home. Last summer LeBron James brought this narrative to the forefront when he chose to leave the Miami Heat and return home to play in Cleveland for the team that drafted him and the city that raised him. Other athletes have followed suit, including Kevin Garnett and Torii Hunter, who caused waves of video montages and fan celebrations when they decided to head back to Minnesota to finish off their illustrious careers.

Rumors are swirling that Kevin Durant is also entertaining the idea of heading home to play for his hometown Washington Wizards once his contract with Oklahoma City expires.

The allure of coming home is quite tempting. As college students, we all know the feeling of warmth and comfort that comes with going back home over winter break. While athletes have dominated the coming home air waves, basketball coaches are not immune from the allure either.

The University of San Diego is now engulfed in conversations of coming home on the heels of the athletic department's latest hire. Lamont Smith, a graduate

of USD, was introduced as the new men's basketball head coach on the morning of April 1, leading the coach to open his press conference with a reminder to his daughters that this whole thing was no April Fools joke.

Smith, now 39 years old, is a former player and student at USD, who graced the Alcalá Park campus from 1994-1999. During his tenure as a player, Smith was twice named the Toreros' Defensive Player of the Year and served as team captain for two seasons.

It was his strong connection with the school which pushed him to leave his gig as an assistant coach at the University of New Mexico and return to his alma mater.

"I have a passion for the University of San Diego," Smith said. "USD helped me become the man I am today." Smith, who admittedly bawled like a baby upon receiving the job, has an affinity for the school that is very refreshing, as the Toreros' two most recent head coaches lacked Smith's firsthand experience with the university.

He lived in Camino Hall as a freshman before moving into The Vistas, something which hundreds of USD students can relate to. During an interview conducted over the phone, Smith gave a shout out to Pennant and Beachcomber, two of Mission Beach's most frequented bars.

"I spent some time down there in my day," Smith said. "I had a good time."

Lamont Smith really is true to the Torero blue. In his press conference he stood proudly at the podium, donning a very visible USD pin on his lapel and sporting an aptly-colored light blue tie. He was equal parts confident and excited, exuding that sense of home which he spoke so often about.

"I am honored and humbled to be your head coach," Smith said. "It is great to be home. I'm excited to be back here."

Smith went on to thank President Mary Lyons as well as her successor James Harris, who were both in attendance. He also made sure to thank the graduates of the USD program who have been so supportive of his hire, calling them a special group and referring to the alumni as friends as well as mentors of his.

The year was 1994 when Smith made his official visit to USD as a high school student. Now, 21 years later, he returns to the place that is so near and dear to his heart.

"I got a great education," Smith said. "But beyond that, I was able to meet an extensive network of friends that love me to this day." He mentioned that when he goes out on the recruiting trail he hopes to sell the USD experience as well as the basketball program. "I hope to give them these same



Photo Courtesy of USD Athletics
Lamont Smith was introduced as head coach at a press conference on April 1.

opportunities," Smith said.

Of course, Smith realizes the uphill battle that the basketball program is facing. Gone are Johnny Dee and Chris Anderson, USD's all-time leaders in points and assists respectively.

Big men Thomas Jacobs and Simi Fajemisin have also exhausted their eligibility, leaving holdovers like Duda Sanadze, Vasa Pusica and Jito Kok to carry the load. Smith acknowledges the fact that success won't be instant.

"We're not naïve, we know we have a lot of work to do," Smith said. "But I want to bring an energy that USD hasn't seen in a while. First and foremost we want to continue to graduate

our student athletes, but we also want to compete for conference championships and advance to the NCAA Tournament."

This will be no easy task given the pedigree of the conference rival Gonzaga Bulldogs, but who better to lead the Toreros to the promised land than a man who attended the school himself?

If Coach Smith is able to achieve his goal of a conference championship and a berth in the NCAA Tournament, you can bet that Pennant and Beachcomber will be overflowing with ecstatic USD basketball fans.

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